

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, July 9, 2004

CHIEF RAMSEY ANNOUNCES SERIES OF COMMAND PROMOTIONS

With the retirements of three experienced Command members, including two assistant chiefs, Chief Ramsey announced this week a number of Command-level promotions and reassignments designed to ensure continuity of leadership and strengthen the MPDC's Command Staff. Retiring later this month are Assistant Chiefs Alfred Broadbent, of the Special Services Command, and Ronald Monroe, of Regional Operations Command-North, along with Commander Abraham Parks of the Seventh District. Assistant Chief Winston Robinson, previously in charge of ROC-East, is assuming command of Special Services, which includes the Office of the Superintendent of Detectives, Special Operations Division and other specialized operational units. Replacing Monroe at ROC-North, which includes 2D, 3D and 4D, is Assistant Chief Peter Newsham, currently assistant chief in the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR). In addition, the Chief promoted 6D Commander Willie Dandridge to Assistant Chief in charge of ROC-East, which includes 6D and 7D. Both of those districts have new commanders: Robin Hoey in 6D, and Joel Maupin in 7D. William Ponton is being promoted to assistant chief in charge of OPR, which includes Internal Affairs and Force Investigations. Nola Joyce, senior executive director for Organizational Development, replaces Ponton as Chief Ramsey's chief of staff. The Chief also promoted five captains to the rank of inspector in various units: Andrew Solberg, 1D-1 substation; Diane Groomes, 3D-1 substation; Alton Bigelow, 6D-1 substation; James Crane, Public Safety Communications, and Kevin Keegan, Operations Command.

- ① All of the promotions are effective July 11. Read the news release at:
<http://www.mpdcc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2778>
- ① Review the MPDC's organizational chart at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/org/orgchart.shtml>
- ① Access the MPDC's online telephone directory at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/atd/ci_main.asp

DC UNVEILS NEW HIGH-TECH ALERT SYSTEMS TO KEEP RESIDENTS INFORMED DURING EMERGENCIES

As part of DC's continuing emergency preparedness program, Mayor Williams this week formally unveiled Alert DC, the District's new citizen emergency notification system. The program provides citizens with three different ways to learn about emergencies in DC and surrounding areas. The first system, Text Alert DC, allows residents to receive emergency messages about an event on text-capable devices—cell phone, computer email, pager and Personal Digital Assistant (PDA). Residents enroll online by clicking on "Visit the Emergency Information Center" at www.dc.gov. They must identify their device types and access numbers or addresses, and also indicate their neighborhood or child's school. Should an event occurs, messages will be sent to those who live in the affected area or attend a school nearby. The second system, Voice Alert DC, allows emergency managers to notify citizens by telephone of an actual or impending incident that may require them to take some protective action (evacuate, shelter-in-place, etc.). Emergency managers can select very precise geographic areas and call the phones in that area to deliver emergency instructions. Home and most business lines are automatically registered; the system will be modified at a future date to register cell phone numbers. Finally, the District Emergency Management Agency is installing and testing new equipment in conjunction with the Maryland Emergency Management Agency at several area radio and television stations as part of its management of the Emergency Alert System (EAS), the partnership with local media outlets.

- ① Read the news release announcing the new systems at:
<http://dc.gov/news/release.asp?cp=1&id=614>
- ① Register for the Text Alert DC system at:
<https://textalert.ema.dc.gov/>
- ① For more information on emergency preparedness in DC, visit:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/emergencypreparedness.shtml>

DC TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL NIGHT OUT ON AUGUST 3

The District of Columbia will celebrate National Night Out in a big way again this year. The 21st annual celebration of crime prevention and police-community partnerships will be held on Tuesday, August 3. In addition to a citywide kickoff celebration, neighborhood events are being planned in all seven police districts—ranging from block parties, cookouts and softball games, to neighborhood walks and candlelight vigils. National Night Out has been bringing police and communities together for more than two decades, and DC has been an active participant over the years. Last year, an estimated 34 million Americans participated in Night Out, including thousands in DC, which earned a “Top 10” award from the National Association of Town Watch for its 2003 celebration. We are hoping for an even bigger turnout and a stronger celebration this year.

SUMMER IS A GOOD TIME TO PRACTICE BURGLARY PREVENTION

With many of us enjoying outdoor activities this summer, the chances of getting careless—and giving burglars an opportunity to strike—are, unfortunately, increased. With the warm weather, both homeowners and apartment dwellers may be tempted to leave their doors unlocked or their windows open. Common excuses are that they are going outside for “only a few minutes” or they will “only be in the backyard.” But it only takes a few minutes for a burglar to enter a home through an unlocked door or an open window. Throughout the year, but especially during the summer, residents are reminded to have good locks installed on their doors—and to use them all the time, especially when they leave their homes. Ground-floor windows should be closed and locked when residents leave their homes, and window locks are recommended on all windows at all times. In addition, homeowners should keep ladders secured—preferably in a locked garage—at all times. Some burglars have been known to use a resident’s ladder to enter a second-story window. Most of all, residents are encouraged to look out for one another and call the police if they seem anything suspicious.

NEWS & NOTES

Used Car Buyers Beware. DC’s Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is taking action to deal with instances of citizens purchasing vehicles from used-car dealers who are not being provided proper titles. Citizens cannot prove ownership or register the vehicles when suspended or revoked dealers illegally reassign a title – leaving their buyers without recourse. As part of its continuing crackdown on improper issuance of temporary tags, the DMV has been taking enforcement action against irregularities on the part of certain used car dealers, with 17 suspensions and 41 revocations of DMV dealer privileges. Get details at <http://dmv.dc.gov/about/070804.shtm>.

Distracted Driving Law in Effect. Motorists are reminded that talking on a hand-held mobile telephone while driving is now illegal in DC. Use of mobile phones with a hands-free accessory is allowed under the law. During the month of July, MPDC officers will be issuing warnings only. But beginning August 1, violators face a \$100 fine. Get details at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/distracteddriver.shtm>.

Tips Sought on Serial Bank Robbers. Law enforcement in the region continues to seek information on a group of heavily armed bank robbers who have struck at six banks in DC and Prince George’s County since January. A sketch of one possible suspect has been released, and a \$50,000 reward is being offered. For details, click on <http://www.mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2772>.

- ① Read more about DC’s celebration and learn about the Night Out events in your community by calling your local police district or by visiting:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/nno_04.shtm

- ① For information about the national celebration of National Night Out, go to:

<http://www.nationaltownwatch.org/nno/index.html>

- ① For a complete list of burglary prevention tips:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/other/burglary.shtm>

- ① Traveling this summer? Make sure you install light timers, have your mail and newspapers picked up, and take other steps to make your home looks “lived in” while you are gone.

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 7/9/04)

- 2004: 99
- 2003: 126
- % Change: -21.4%
- Closure Rate: 53.5% (53 closures)

Adult Arrests (week end. 7/3/04)

- Total: 1,020
- Drugs: 175
- Weapons: 16
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 17
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 46

Firearm Recoveries (as of 7/7/04)

- July: 9
- June: 153
- 2004 Total: 1,055

Traffic Fatalities (as of 7/9/04)

- 2004: 29
- 2003: 31
- % Change: -6.5%